



March 21, 1997

The Honorable Ernest Istook
U.S. House of Representatives
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Istook,

Concerned Women for America (CWA), as the largest pro-family women's organization in America, is pleased to support your efforts to bring forward a constitutional amendment that will safeguard religious expression. Our over 500,000 members have continued to remind us that their First Amendment rights to free religious expression are routinely trampled. It's time for those who seek to persecute religious people to stop hiding behind the robes of the Supreme Court. It is time for a Religious Freedom Amendment.

America's religious heritage can be traced to the Declaration of Independence, our founding document, which reminded the world that mankind has been endowed by the Creator with *certain* inalienable rights. And our Constitution further elaborated the fundamental rights that Americans hold dear. CWA favors protection for:

- Religious symbols (i.e. the cross, crèche, menorah, etc.)
- Voluntary, student-initiated and student-led prayer in all schools
- Free and secure religious expression

Now is the time to permanently codify the rights of all Americans -- rights that have been ignored by many in the judicial system for the last 30 years. Rep. Istook, CWA appreciates your tireless efforts on behalf of America's families, and we look forward to working with you and other members of Congress in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Beverly LaHaye
Chairman & Founder